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Roth is briefed on Paisley probe

By JOE TRENTO

The Department of Justice will decide within two weeks if it will conduct its own probe into the mysterious disappearance of CIA official John A. Paisley.

That word came late yesterday from Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., who was briefed on the progress of an investigation into

the Paisley affair by Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind.

Roth originally called for the probe Oct. 3 after News-Journal newspaper reports linked Paisley with a top secret satellite system that was to be used to monitor the latest Strategic Arms Limitation Agreement with the Soviet Union.

Roth said, in a telephone interview from his Washington office, that Bayh had pledged to him that any connection between Paisley's disappearance and "the verification of SALT agreement would be included in a separate report to the Senate to be made prior to a confirmation vote on the SALT treaty."

Roth said that Bayh told him that if the Justice Department refuses to undertake the Paisley probe the Intelligence Committee will decide if it wants to commit its resources to conduct its own full scale investigation.

Roth said that Bayh would comply with his request to make the details of the committee's investigation into the Paisley case public "within the bounds of national security."

Roth said it is essential for the Paisley case to be resolved before any SALT treaty is voted upon by the Senate. "If the news is bad it is better to know it before the SALT II talks reach the Senate floor. If the answers are positive it will remove the cloud which hangs over this investigation."